A publication of International Institute of Kashmir Studies (UK) & Kashmiri American Council (USA)

KASHMIR REPORT

March/ April 1993 Volume 5 No. 3 & 4

Call for trilateral conference to resolve the Kashmir problem

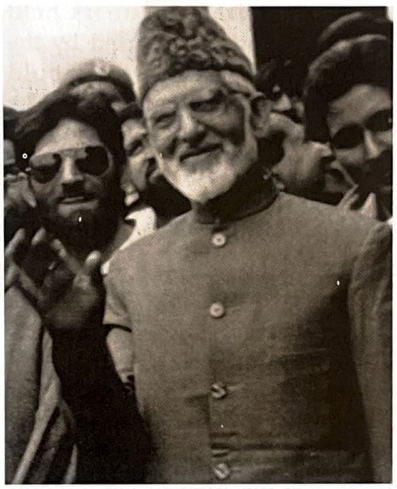
London, 29 March (KPI): The veteran Kashmiri leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, has called on the British Government to take up the people of Kashmir's unanimous proposal for evolving a trilateral conference to the Kashmir problem under the UN auspices.

Syed Geelani, drawing Prime Minister John Major's attention to the deteriorating situation threatening the peace in South Asia and to the Indian perfidy which helped New Delhi to take hold of the territory in blatant disregard of the wishes of the people of Kashmir, has in a communication, reminded Mr Major of Britain's unfinished legacy of its rule in the subcontinent.

[Syed Geelani, who could not see Mr Major personally to apprise the British Prime Minister of the current situation in Indian held Kashmir during the latter's recent visit to India, because of the grave situation in Kashmir, has addressed a communication to the British leader direct to his 10 Downing Street official residence in London.]

Spelling out the trilateral conference to the Kashmir problem, Syed Geelani said a tripartite conference, between the Governments of India and Pakistan and the representatives of the Kashmiri people, must be convened under UN auspices and he pleaded for Britain's support to the proposal.

Syed Geelani has also called on the British Government to bring all



necessary pressure on the Indian Government to halt its reign of terror in Kashmir, persuade India to allow entry of international human rights groups into Kashmir and seriously consider imposition of economic sanctions against India through the UN.

The veteran Kashmiri leader, who has spent nearly 20 years in prison for his struggle to have the UN resolutions on Kashmir, guaranteeing the Kashmiri people the right of self-determination through UN supervised plebiscite, implemented, asked the British Prime Minister to "see the Kashmir problem in its right historical perspective."

"The British left the subcontinent without completing the job of partition, thus bequeathing the legacy of the Kashmir problem", he said, adding "in a way Britain has a moral responsibility in helping towards a lasting solution of the Kashmir problem which is acceptable to all three parties, ie, the Kashmiris, India and Pakistan."

"The solution is simple", said Syed Geelani. "All that is required is to implement the UN resolutions on Kashmir which call for UN supervised plebiscite allowing the Kashmiri people to freely decide their political future.

Recalling the Indian perfidy in obtaining the accession of the state of Jammu and Kashmir to India, Syed Geelani said Indian fraud has been exposed by British and other historians. Besides, "the fact remains that Mr Nehru found excuses to prolong the dispute and to make the holding of a plebiscite (to which India had already made commitments to the world and to the people of Kashmir) more and more difficult".

"Mr. Nehru exploited the extraneous issues to his advantage. He secured for India the friendship of the Communist bloc, spearheaded by the former Soviet Union. He successfully made the Soviet leaders believe that the only way to defeat the American strategy in this part of the world was to sabotage every move to end the (Kashmir) dispute."

"After the agreement to supply American arms to Pakistan, Nehru discovered that India and Soviet Union were brothers. Soviet aid was being received with a fanfare of publicity while the American aid was being accepted 'rather grudgingly'.

"The impotence of UN, the West's preoccupation with the Communist challenge and its over-scrupulousness in relation to India, whose negative diplomacy seemed innocuous to it, the growing indifference to the humanitarian aspect of Kashmir, after the West's consistently just equitable stand on it, contributed to making India so daring and defiant that it refused to even consider the question of plebiscite.

"Upon grabbing the best part of Jammu and Kashmir state, India soon found herself in a position to substitute the argument of force with the force of argument.

"For some time the Kashmir problem remained in cold storage with some occasional warmth generated by such events as the theft of the holy relic in 1963 and the two India-Pakistan wars of 1965 and 1971. Between 1972 and 1990 there were many events, both inside and outside Kashmir, which clearly indicated that the freedom-loving people of Kashmir were unchanged in their resolve to throw off the yoke of slavery".

Syed Geelani said, "The armed struggle, which is completely indigenous, has been going on for the last four years now. It has the full backing of the masses as fully evidenced by the week-long peaceful demonstrations by millions of men, women and children of Kashmir in favour of a plebiscite and freedom from India."

"If the mighty Soviet Union has to surrender its integration before the just aspirations of its held republics justly supported by the whole of the West, why should similar, whole-hearted support be denied to the people of Indian-held Kashmir. What have the people of Kashmir done to merit the lack of genuine concern of the West for the plight?

"What stops the West", pleaded Syed Geelani,"from reactivating the UN in the matter of Kashmir when it has been giving full moral, political and material support to UN's efforts in the Gulf region? The apparent double standards of the UN are seen as being reflective of the different treatment given by the West to the similar kind of problems".

"I earnestly appeal to you on behalf of the 12 million people of Jammu and Kashmir", Syed Geelani's communication to the British Prime Minister concluded, "in the name of justice and humanity, to come in support of the oppressed people of Kashmir and fulfil your moral obligation."

International Commission of Jurists to probe into custodial deaths in Indian-held Kashmir

London, Mar 12(KPI): The International Commission of Jurists in Geneva will shortly be sending a team to probe into custodial deaths in Indian-held Kashmir and the dreadful effects of five black laws of India on the Kashmiri people.

This decision of the ICJ was precipitated by a meeting between Dr Ayyub Thukar, President of the World Kashmir Freedom Movement and ICJ's Secretary General, Mr Adama Dieng in Geneva early in the month.

The ICJ has been deeply concerned by the mounting number of deaths of Kashmiri people held in custody by the Indian military and paramilitary forces operating the infamous laws as reported by the Amnesty International, Asia Watch and world media.

ICJ's decision to carry out the probe in Indian-held Kashmir is significant in as much as it is for the first time, after UN's early involvement decades ago, that an international body is concerned with the tragic happenings in Kashmir.

Dr Ayyub Thukar took the opportunity of the meeting with ICJ members to apprise them of the recent, historic revelation that the much-trumpeted claim of New Delhi that the ruler of Jammu and Kashmir had acceded to India is fraudulent.

The WKFM President briefed the ICJ on the basis of Professor Alastair Lamb's monograph (copies of which he presented to ICJ members), that accession had never taken place since the ruler had never signed the accession document.

ICJ members were greatly interested in the revelations as these have put the whole Kashmir case in a new and altogether different perspective. Much of the Indian case in its complaint to the UN back in January 1948 was based on the 'legality' of the Kashmir ruler's accession to India, which has now been thrown to the winds by the noted British historian.

In Geneva, Dr Ayyub Thukar held separate meetings with Mr Eric Sottas, Director, World Organisation Against Torture; Mr Thierry Germond, Delegate General for Europe, International Committee of the Red Cross; and Ms Maria Francisca Ize-charrin of the Centre for Human Rights.

He apprised them of the indiscriminate killings, torture, imprisonment without trial of the Kashmiris people and gang-rapes of Kashmiri women at the hands of Indian occupation forces and the mounting human rights abuses committed by Indian forces in Kashmir.

He impressed on Mr Germond the urgent need of Red Cross supplies of medicine and needed equipment for the suffering humanity in Kashmir where hospitals are desperately short of them.

Dr Thukar helped organise the picketing of the UN office in Geneva and participated in the programme of the Kashmiri Women's Delegation visiting Geneva (March 1 to 4) to apprise the Commission on Human Rights and other concerned organisations of the grave human rights violations by India against the people of Kashmir in general and the Kashmiri women in particular.

Kashmir freedom struggle is indestructible

London, March 15 (KPI): The Kashmiri struggle for self-determination is indestructible and would grow stronger till the objective is achieved, said Mr Abdul Gani Lone, chairman of the People's Conference and member of the five-men political leadership of Indian-held Kashmir.

Mr Lone, who is on a short visit to Britain, was speaking at a representative meeting of the heads of Kashmiri organisations in UK organised by the Kashmir Centre here last evening.

He said the political leadership of Kashmir and all the main organisations of freedom-fighters are united in their struggle for self-determination, and would withstand all obstacles in the struggle's path.

Mr Lone, giving the background of the current struggle and bringing the audience up todate with the situation in Indian-held Kashmir said it was the young Kashmiri Mujahideen who had provided the agenda for the politial future of Kashmir.

He stressed, that while knowledgeable circles in India, including parliamentarians, senior army personnel and high civil servants, realise Kashmiris cannot be kept long subdued by force (barring aircraft and tanks, Indians have used all the available weaponry in Kashmir), the only way is to woo them politically.

Mr Lone added, that the time of wooing the Kashmiris has gone and no body not even Dr Abdullah, a person already discredited in the eyes of Kashmiri people, could deflect the course of the struggle.

He stressed on the Kashmiris abroad that while they subscribe fully to the struggle's objective of self-determination, along with bringing New Delhi to accept that Kashmir is a disputed territory, they must evolve a common strategy helpful to the Kashmir cause which all can fully support despite their differences.

He said he was distressed by the large number of Kashmiri organisations abroad, which tend to dilute the effectiveness of the struggle.

He said that one thing on which they can all unite and influence indigenous people is to say that the common objective is the right of self-determination for the Kashmiri people as given to them by UN resolutions on Kashmir.

Mr Lone said the Kashmiri struggle needs material support from their well-wishers abroad and appealed to the Kashmiris to give generously to the relief of Kashmiri victims of human rights violations committed by Indian occupation forces, he added that Kashmiri organisations should not let their differences come in the way of providing much needed relief to the people of Indian-held Kashmir.

Earlier, the WKFM President Dr Ayyub Thukar, welcoming the leaders of Kashmiri organisations in Britain, said that the Azad Kashmiris have played a commendable role in bringing the Kashmir cause to the forefront and in making people aware of India's human rights violations.

Whenever needed, be it for the lobbying of MPs, picketing, providing relief, or taking part in demonstrations, Azad Kashmiri have always lent their unstinted support, Dr Ayyub added. He introduced Mr Lone to the audience describing his past services, and requested Kashmiri leaders to address the audience briefly after the guest speaker.

Choudhry Muhammad Khan of the Azad Kashmir Muslim Conferenc (UK) and Overseas Member of Azad Kashmir Assembly, said, "We are united in Kashmir's Tehreek-i-Azadi which is the common platform of all the Kashmiri people and organisations in the UK".

Mr Shabbir Hussain of Tehreek-i-Kashmir (UK) said the TK has been working for the Kashmir cause since 1986 when it was set up. "Among the Kashmiri organisations in the UK", Mr Shabbir said, "the TK has provided a large amount of relief for the victims of Indian atrcoities in Kashmir".

Mr Musadiq Khan, Acting Chairman, Pakistan Peoples Party of Azad Kashmir (UK), said his organisation is fully behind the Kashmiri struggle. "It is organising a march of 100,000 party workers to cross the cease-fire line on 4 April this year, as well as a big demonstration in Britain on the occasion". He appealed to all Kashmiris to make the demonstration a success.

Mr Zaffar Khan, spokesman of Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (UK) said, "We are doing the best we can at the international level and will continue fulfilling our responsibilities in the Kashmiri struggle". "we make it clear to the people here that we are not

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militants or terrorists but freedom-fighters".

Dr Sirajuddin, a Kashmiri human rights activist said, "We should form a united front. Many people abroad think Kashmir is a dispute between India and Pakistan. We need to make them aware that there is also a third and crucial party, the Kashmiri people, who are engaged in life and death struggle for freedom of their land" and that, "we must bring Kashmir to the forefront of international agenda".

Mr Hussain Ahmed Islahi of Azad Kashmir's International Kashmir Welfare Council said the AK government has set up tent camps for Kashmir refugees and has provided barely Pak Rs 15/- per head to the refugees. He said his organisation has opened one relief project in the camps which caters for all the needs of the refugees and proposes to open 10 more shortly.

Mr Meherban Hussain, Secretary General of Kashmir Freedom Movement (UK) said his organisation has been lobbying British MPs and in this connection has distributed literature in considerable quantity to them as well to members of the general public. Such efforts need be coordinated with other Kashmiri groups, he added.

Mr Nazir Gilani, Secretary General of Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights and publisher of Urdu 'Gaash' magazine recited a couplet in Kashmiri, the gist of which was, even if our approaches are different, our objective is the same.

Maulana Mohammad Yakub Chisti, Azad Kashmir Muslim Conference (UK) Publicity Board Chairman, said, "we live together, work together and God willing succeed in liberating Kashmir together from the clutches of India.

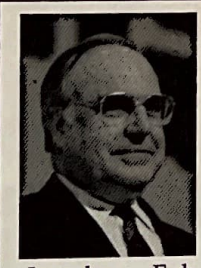
Raja Azam, President of Azad Kashmir Muslim League (UK), said he has been active for the Kashmir cause since 1955 and regretted that the '1947 base camp' of Kashmiri liberation did not extend as it ought to have. He added, Kashmiris would continue providing support to the Kashmir cause as long as it is needed.

Mr Mohammad Ayyub, President of Azad Kashmir Muslim Conference (UK) said, his organisation is in full support of the idea of creating a common platform for the achieving the objective of Kashmiri self-determination and added, he has himself being participating in worthwhile programmes undertaken by Kashmiris irrespective of their political persuasions.

Choudhry Mohammad Sadiq, Convener of Azad Kashmir Liberation League (UK) stressed the need of clarity in the Kashmiri objective since, according to his reckoning, there are 11 different approaches to the Kashmir solution. He regretted that such confusion is a stumbling block in making the indigenous people aware of the Kashmir cause. He asked for just one approach, which should be Kashmiri self-determination and appealed to all the Kashmiri organisations to endorse it.

Choudhry Mohammad Fazil, President of Muslim Conference (UK) and Birmingham Councillor said, he agreed that a joint committee of all Kashmiri organisations need be set up to give effect to policies commonly arrived for supporting the Kashmiri self-determination.

Participating in the meeting were Mr Latif Malik, Convener J&KLF (UK), Dr Z.U.Khan of Muslim Conference (UK), Dr M.A. Sofi, Dr S.A. Malik, Dr Farooq Ahmed, Dr Gaiyasuddin, Dr A.R. Dhar, Dr Nazir Dhar, Dr Riaz Mir, Mr Aslam Mir, Mr Khurshid Nahami, Mr Khalid Muzaffar, Mr Jehangir Raina, Mr Suhail Bhat, Mr Saleh Hakim, Mr Habib Khankashi, Mr Altaf Dainposh, Mr Shahnawaz Mir and Mr Mohammad Ashraf. Mrs A.Z. Mir and Mrs Halima Khankashi, also attended the meeting.



German Chancellor calls for goodwill on all sides to resolve the Kashmir issue

London, Feb 26, (KPI): Dr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, has called on all having the goodwill for it to support the urgent solution of the Kashmir problem.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi (Feb 22) at the end of his recent visit to India, Dr Kohl said, "I believe that a solution between Pakistan and India [on Kashmir] belongs to the important and most urgent problems of the present world and all those who have goodwill should help".

Dr Kohl was asked whether in view of his acknowledged friendly relations with Pakistan and India, he has proposed any solution of the Kashmir problem.

Dr Kohl said, he cannot propose any solution, neither is he able to assume the role of a mediator. However, elaborating his concern at the festering problem of Kashmir, the German Chancellor said, " no body should claim that he has, so to speak, monopolised the only possible solution."

According to observers, Dr Kohl seemed to be implying that New Delhi's tedious dwellings, that Kashmir is an integral part of India and doesn't beg a solution, is tantamount to 'monopolising the only solution' and is unacceptable.

Dr Kohl, while not visualising any mediatory role on the Kashmir problem said, "we want the dialogue between the two states (of India and Pakistan) and we would like to support a bilateral solution (under the 1972 Simla Agreement)".

Women's Delegation asks UNCHR to help stop the genocide of Kashmiri people

London, March 10 (KPI): A delegation of Kashmiri women led by Dr Mrs Attiya Inayatullah has called on the UN Commission of Human Rights in Geneva to force India to stop the genocide of Kashmiri people.

The Kashmiri Women Delegation's address to the 49th Session of the UN Commission of Human Rights (UNCHR), as well as its meetings with the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), in the first week of March, have been ground-breaking.

The UNCHR and other Geneva-based international organisations haven't had such comprehensive and documented account of India's human rights violations in occupied Kashmir by the Kashmiris themselves as was provided by the Kashmiri Women's Delegation.

World Kashmir Freedom Movement President, Dr Ayyub Thukar, attending the UNCHR session, participated in Kashmiri Women Delegation's busy schedule of meetings and addresses. He also helped organise the picketing at the Palace de Nations by Kashmiris in Europe and their supporters.

Kashmiri Women Delegation leader, Dr Mrs Attiya Inayatullah, addressing the UNCHR session attended by more that 150 delegates and observers from across the world said, "I am here today to ask the democratic forces of the world to help put an end to the genocide and human rights violations in Kashmir".

She said, "I dedicate my address before the Human Rights Commission to my courageous, nay, heroic mothers, daughters and sisters in Indian held Kashmir who at the cost of their honour and the lives of their sons are sustaining the freedom struggle of the people of Kashmir".

Giving details of Indian atrocities in Kashmir including extra-judicial and summary executions, such as in 'fake encounters', gang rape of Kashmiri women, disappearance and torture of detainees and prisoners, premeditated acts of arson against Kashmiri property, prolonged curfews aimed at psychological intimidation and economic strangulation, Dr Attiya said, "the depth to which Indian forces have stooped is unfathomable".

She called on the UNCHR to send a fact-finding mission to Kashmir and to move the Security Council to appoint a UN Observers Group in Indian-held Kashmir to protect Kashmiris from Indian occupation forces, similar to the decision taken in the Iraq-Kurd situation.

Dr Inayatullah also called on International Red Cross to restore medical facilities and infrastructure in Indian occupied Kashmir and to prevent Indian forces from obstructing the work of medics.

Calling on the world community to assist Kashmiris in working out a durable and peaceful solution based on exercise of the right of self-determination, the leader of Kashmiri Women's Delegation asked the UN to take appropriate action as provided in the Genocide Convention of 1951. She also called for setting up of a Crimes Against Kashmiris Commission by the International Council of Jurists.

Mrs Shamim Shawl, human rights activist and member of the Kashmiri Women's Delegation, in her address said, "the Kashmiri women are being deprived of their lives and honour as the price of struggle for their freedom".

She said, "Indian government has licensed its occupation forces to assault and abuse the dignity and honour of Kashmiri women. ... Women as young as 7 and as old as 70 have suffered rapes and gang rapes which are organised by Indian forces in full view of the family."

Giving details of rapes and gang rapes committed by Indian occupation forces, Mrs Shawl said, "this crime against Kashmiri women should not be condoned in this civilised age", and called on the UNCHR to move the UN to appoint a tribunal to investigate the crimes of Indian occupation forces in Kashmir.

The leader of the Pakistan delegation to the UNCHR's 49th session, Mr Mushahid Hussain said, Jammu and Kashmir is not a bilateral problem between India and Pakistan, but one which the international community has to take due note of.

He said, "today there are four hundred thousand Indian armed forces in Jammu and Kashmir; that is, one Indian soldier for every three able-bodied Kashmiris. He regretted Indian delegation's efforts to sidetrack the central question of human rights violations as well as the implementation of UN resolutions on Kashmir by acrimonious exchange of rights of reply.

Mr Hussain said, after trying to take refuge behind the untenable position that Kashmir was an integral part of India, India has next sought to portray the struggle of the Kashmiri people as being instigated by Pakistan.

"This is just not true", Pakistan's delegation leader said, "but because the allegation had been made, we proposed in 1991 that an

independent international fact-finding team should be sent to Kashmir to determine the correct facts".

The leader of the Indian delegation, Mr N. Janardhana Reddy said India is a vibrant and pluralistic democracy, but "we do not accept that the ambit of human rights can be extended by abrogating sovereignty of others".

Refuting Indian delegate's assertion, the delegate of European Community and Denmark's Permanent Representative to UNCHR, Mr Jakob Esper Larsen said, "the Community and its member states refuse to accept that state sovereignty can be used as a shield for any country to carry out violations of human right".

He said, the Community's 1991 Declaration of Human Rights categorically holds that " respecting, promoting and safeguarding human rights is an essential part of international relations as well as of relations between the Community and its member states, and other countries".

Mr Larsen said, "the European Community and its Member States deplore the continuing violence which affects Kashmir, and the ensuing deterioration of human rights situation in that region", adding "it is of grave concern to us that tensions and conflicts arising from gross violations of human rights in a country are often also a threat to regional or international peace and security".

Another stinging condemnation of Indian human rights violations in Kashmir came from the Permanent Observer of the Organisation of Islamic Conference to the UNCHR, Mr Nanguyalai S. Tarzi.

Mr Tarzi, in his address said, the Sixth Islamic Summit's resolution adopted at Dakar in December 1991 had expressed deep concern at the alarming increase in the indiscriminate use of force and gross violations of human rights committed against the people of Kashmir. Similar condemnation had also been made, he added, by OIC's Foreign Ministers conferences of 1990 and 1991.

He said, the resolution had asked the OIC's Secretary General to send a three-member fact-finding mission to visit Jammu and Kashmir. The mission couldn't undertake the task because Indian government had refused it entry into Kashmir.

The Kashmiri Women delegation presented a memorandum on the medical conditions in Indian occupied Kashmir to the International Committee of Red Cross in Geneva and appealed to the world humanitarian organisation to rush urgently needed medical supplies to Kashmir.

Memorandum said, what it is presenting is the tip of the iceberg for the extent of the assault of the Indian occupation forces on medics and medical infrastructure in the territory is enormous, and it drew attention to the devastating conditions in hospitals, maltreatment and mental torture of patients by Indian forces.

Memorandum, listing damning evidence provided by world media reports, recalled how there is complete breakdown of essential medical supplies, how incessant and long curfews disrupt arrangement for carrying patients to hospitals, obstruct casualty emergencies, and how frequent hospital searches by Indian forces do not spare even the terminally ill patients.

Close to the visit of Kashmiri Women Delegation to the UNCHR, the London-based Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights Secretary General, Mr Nazir Gilani, was in Geneva and addressed the 49th UNCHR session. He called on the UNCHR that, as a spokesman of whole humanity, it should act in Kashmir before it is too late.

US Congress bill to stop aid to India

London, March 4 (KPI): The US Congress will shortly be voting on a bill, co-sponsored by 32 Congressional members of both the Republican and Democratic Parties, to stop all development aid to India till New Delhi repeals its infamous laws,"which are so offensive to the common sense of justice".

Initiated by Republican member of the House from Indiana, Mr Dan Burton, the bill will require the President to report to Congress within 60 days whether India has repealed the repressive laws.

The infamous Indian laws are the (1) Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act (TADA), (2) National Security Act (NSA), (3) Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, (4) Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act and (5) Armed Forces (Punjab & Chandigarh) Special Powers Act.

If India has not repealed these enactments, which besides being oppressive, encourage human rights violations, then the bill will cut off dollars 143 million of total US foreign aid to India for the fiscal year 1993, and would be doing so every year the repressive laws are in force in India.

The bill will, however, exempt humanitarian aid programme (e.g. Vaccine and Immunodiagnostic Development Project, the Child Health Support Project and the Private and Voluntary Organisations for Health II Project.

The 'Justice for India Act', as Mr Dan Burton bill is called, is destined a quick passage in the Congress. With the number of its Congresssional co-sponsors from both the parties rising constantly, the bill has the added advantage of support from President Clinton's administration, interested as it is in strict observance for human rights worldwide.

In a general circular eliciting Congressmen's support to the bill, its 32 co-sponsors have said, "if the so-called world's largest democracy needs laws like TADA to repress its people, then it's no democracy, and is certainly unworthy of US aid". It said, United States should "stop rewarding Indian repression".

Kashmir, Bosnia and Palestine are glaring examples of denial of human rights

Pakistani Prime Minister's address to the UN Commission on Human Right

The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr Nawaz Sharif in his statement at the 49th session of the UN Commission on Human RightsinGeneva, has given a stirring call that the Commission play a crucial role "in taming the dark forces of caprice with the rule of law in Kashmir, Bosnia and Palestine".

He said, the Commission on Human Rights has a vital role in ensuring that the provisions of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are implemented faithfully and impartially.

"Humanity cannot afford double standards in applying these universal principles", he said, and added, "selective justice leads to the perpetuation of injustice. Rights cannot be sacrificed at the altar of might".

Mr Sharif,in his statement (of February 2) said, "can we treat Kashmir, Bosnia and Palestine differently? Are we not committed to avoiding discrimination and double standards when we have pledged and proclaimed 'that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and everyone is entitled to all the rights of freedom set forth in this declaration'?"

Recalling that regrettably these are the dark spots on this globe where human rights are being flagrantly violated and human beings are subjected to inhuman and intolerable treatment, he drew the audience's attention to the communal orgy let loose recently in India following the destruction of Babri Mosque in which thousands of Muslims were killed in cold blood.

Mr Sharif said, in Jammu and Kashmir the fundamental rights including the right of self-determination are being persistently denied to the people, where as the "nations of Asia and Africa have gained their freedom on the basis of this sacred right".

"The denial of this right to the people of Kashmir represents a major failure in the impartial and non-discriminatory application of human rights standards", the Pakistan Prime Minister stressed.

Recounting the history of people's struggle for self-determination in Kashmir, he said, after enduring decades of Indian oppression, the Kashmiri movement for freedom had commenced in January 1990.

"This movement was peaceful, widespread and self-sustained. It was pursued through marches and demonstrations. The violence in Kashmir was initiated by the Indian security forces on January 21, 1990 when they shot and killed more than a hundred unarmed demonstrators in Srinagar, the capital of Indian-held Kashmir".

"Since then a campaign of brutal suppression has been conducted by half a million Indian troops in Indian-held Kashmir. These forces are above law, free from any restraints, immune from any investigation or punishment of their conduct."

Mr Sharif said, at least 10,000 Kashmiri men, women and children have been killed by the Indian forces in cold blood. Kashmiris are routinely subjected to torture, often of the most cruel form and later they are killed in staged 'encounters'.

"The Indian forces", he said, "have tried to break the spirit of the resistance by dishonouring Kashmiri women. Rape is common. ... Despite the repression, the struggle for freedom in Indian occupied Kashmir has continued to gather momentum".

Pakistan Prime Minister said, "throughout history, the only effective answer to a brutal invader has been militant struggle and resistance. This was the answer of the French, the Dutch and the Norwegians to the Nazi occupation.

"This was the answer of the Afghans to the Soviet intervention. These struggles were hailed as heroic freedom movements. The Kashmiri struggle for freedom is as just and legitimate as any of these struggles. To denigrate it as 'terrorism' is a travesty".

Mr Sharif said, "India's endeavour to portray the Kashmiri struggle as instigated and sustained by Pakistan is a transparent alibi. Our prayers are for the success of their struggle. We offer our moral, political and diplomatic support".

"But", he said, "we do not provide them military assistance. We have proposed that impartial observers should be stationed in Kashmir to verify the Indian allegations of interference. India's refusal to accept this proposal exposes the hollowness of their allegations against Pakistan".

Exhorting the delegates attending the 49th session of the Commission on Human Rights, Mr Sharif said, today when the world is at a crucial juncture in the battle against oppression and intolerance, "we have a responsibility to create a new structure of peace based on justice, equality and impartiality."

"The UN charter and universal declaration of human rights

Chronology of Events - Occupied Kashmir

◆ Feb. 1. Ten Kashmiris were killed by firing in the valley, fighting also took place between freedom-fighters and occupying forces in Islamabad, Pulawama and Baramulla. Occupying forces raided houses in Bandipora town arresting around 15 young Kashmiris.

◆ Feb. 2. Kashmir issue should be solved in accordance with UN resolutions and Simla agreement, said Chinese ambassador to Pakistan while talking to pressmen in Lahore. He added , that tissue can be resolved peacefully without military intervention, as was required in Iraq.

◆ Feb. 5. Three civilians were killed in Badgam by occupying forces. Fighting also took place between freedom-fighters at different places in the valley.

◆ Feb. 7. Fourteen civilians were killed in different acts of indiscriminate firing by Indian occupying forces, Indian forces also burnt five residential houses in Khanyar area of Iqbalabad.

◆ Feb.8. Kashmiris in Iqbalabad, Islamabad and Baramulla demonstrated in large numbers against India' illegal and immoral occupation of Kashmir, they also demanded the immediate end to the ongoing genocide being perpetrated by Indian occupying forces .

- Indian authorities have once again refused Amnesty International permission to visit and investigate the human rights abuses in Kashmir, however AI can visit New Delhi and meet Indian officials there.

◆ Feb 9. Indian occupying forces raided homes in Fateh Kadal, Khanyar Kalishpora and Badagou areas of Iqbalabad, 15 civilians were arrested. Fighting also took place between freedom-fighters and Indian occupying forces at various places in the Valley.

◆ Feb 10. Mr Syed Ali Geelani and other Kashmiri leaders have rejected India's offer of talks for more autonomy within Indian Constitution. They reaffirmed that they will continue their struggle till Kashmiris are given their right of self-determination guaranteed under UN resolutions.

◆ Feb 19. People of Kashmir strongly protested during the Indian Home minister 's visit to Kashmir , they demanded an immediate end to human rights violations and Indian occupation.
—Freedom-fighters attacked troops check posts killing two soldiers and injuring many more.

◆ Feb 20. Dr Farooq Ashai, Chief orthopedic surgeon in occupied Kashmir and a human rights activists was brutally murdered by Indian occupying forces while travelling to home , Indian troops stopped his car , got him out and shot from close range, while daughter and wife watched in the car. His death was widely condemned by people of Kashmir and observed a day's strike. All commercial establishments , schools, private and public offices remained closed. Entire medical and para-medical staff of the state health services have gone on an indefinite strike, unless the murder of Dr Ashai, is thoroughly investigated by independent international organisation.

◆ Feb 23. Indian occupying forces raided a village near Sopore killed 5 civilians and burnt several houses. Freedom- fighters attacked Indian forces camps at several places in the valley.

◆ Feb 24. Kashmir University students in Iqbalabad, held a protest demonstrations in the campus for the release of a fellow student Manzoor Ahmad , who has been arrested a month before and kept in Interrogation centres without any trial.

◆ Feb 27. Mr Shabir Shah, the Jailed veteran Kashmiri leader has called upon UN secretary general Boutras Ghali to intervene in Kashmir and stop the ongoing genocide . Mr Shabir Shah has been declared as prisoner of Conscious by Amnesty International.

◆ March I. A Kashmiri student , Sajad Ahmad was burnt alive by Indian occupying forces in Islamabad.
Forces also raided the Village Chadoora and arrested 20 innocent Civilians.

◆ March 2. Seventy civilians were arrested by Indian occupying forces in Sopore, after raiding several localities of the area. One person was killed by the firing of Indian forces.

◆ March 3. Twelve civilians were killed by Indian occupying forces in the valley at different places . They also set some houses on fire in Pulwama .

- Kashmiri Political and militant leadership has rejected India's offer of talks within Indian Constitution, and instead reaffirmed their resolve to fight, till Kashmir is free of Indian occupation.

◆ March 4. India rejected Pakistan's call for talks on Kashmir , was revealed by Pakistan Prime Minister Mr Nawaz Sharief in an interview with Saudi Arabian newspaper " The Daily Riyadh".

◆ March 5. People of Kashmir observed a day's strike against India's occupation, and Genocide being perpetrated by Indians. A memorandum was also presented to the UN military observers HQ in Iqbalabad (Srinagar).

◆ March 7 People of Kashmir protested against the desecration of Mosques in Kashmir by Indian occupying forces, elsewhere Indian forces burnt three residential houses and one factory in Zainakot area of Iqbalabad.

◆ March 8. Indian occupying forces raided houses in the downtown Iqbalabad, arresting many innocent Kashmiris, elsewhere people protested at the killing of 5 innocent Kashmiris by Indian occupying forces during interrogation.

◆ March 9. Indian occupying forces raided the offices of Several leading newspapers , arresting Mr Ghulam Jeelani, Editor of daily "Nida-Mashriq". Kashmir newspapers suspended the publication as a protest.

◆ March 10. Mrs Asia Andrabi, leading Kashmiri freedom activist and Chairman of a Women's organisation is still in Jail with her 6 month old baby. No charges have been framed, and no body is allowed to meet her, there is growing concern among the Kashmiris for her physical and personal safety.

◆ March 12. Mr Chaman lal Gupta, President of J&K Bharitya Janta Party (Hindu extreme Party) has denied the allegation against Kashmiri Muslims , that any damage has been caused to Hindu Temples in Kashmir. He confirmed that most of the temples are safe and operational in Kashmir.

◆ March 14. Indian occupying forces burnt more than 10 houses and killed one women and a child by firing in Baramulla.

◆ March 15. New Governor, Mr Krishna Rao has assumed office in Kashmir to continue the India's policy of organised repression against Kashmiris demanding their right of Self- determination guaranteed to them under UN resolutions.

March 30. Five Kashmiris were killed by Indian occupying forces during infamous house raids, reports of abusing women were also mentioned.